

Appln. No.: 09/904,468
Amdt. dated June 13, 2003
Reply to Office action of 02/14/03

REMARKS

Claim 1, 3 and 5-7 remains in the application with claim 1 being independent.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application.

The specification has been amended to update the priority information regarding the related application on page 1, and to delete the "?" from its occurrence with the numeral "80" appearing on page 6.

The rejections of claims 1-9, in paragraphs 2 and 4 based upon method limitations has been overcome by deleting the recitations. Similarly, the rejections of claims 3 and 7 for unclear recitations have been overcome by deleting the recitations. The rejections of claims 4, 8 and 9 are moot as these claims have been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly distinguish over the prior art by more specifically reciting that the top and bottom surfaces of the peripheral edge is covered by the material of the container body. The Examiner relied upon Uhlig '411 to teach a reinforcement partially embedded in column 5, lines 50 et. seq. However, that statement also describes the reinforcement as extending "flush with the adjacent exterior surfaces of the bottle 10." And as Figure 5, shows, the "bottle 10" or container material does not cover the top surface of the reinforcement element 28. As is clearly evident from Figures 1-5 of Uhlig '411, the expansion of the container or bottle 10 forces the reinforcement 28 against the inner wall of the mold without any space for the container material to flow between the mold wall and the reinforcement. Accordingly, the combination claimed in claim 1 can not be produced by the Uhlig '411 method.

Accordingly, the subject claims are allowable over the prior art.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicant believes that no fees are due, however, if any become required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

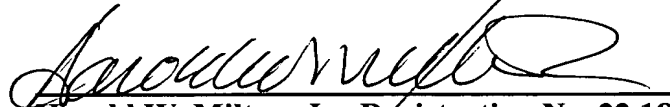
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Account 08-2789. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted

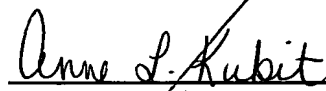
HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

6/13/03
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/015,875 filed December 13, 2001 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **June 3, 2003**.


Anne L. Kubit